

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 EB-07 TRSE-00 COME-00 XMB-02

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R 092136Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 247

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 6712

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, GW, CI

SUBJECT: MOERSCH VISIT TO CHILE

REF: BONN 11261

1. SUMMARY: MINISTER OF STATE OF THE GERMAN FOREIGN OFFICE MOERSCH STUCK CLOSE TO THE SCRIPT DESCRIBED IN REFTEL DURING HIS JULY 4-7 VISIT TO SANTIAGO. REPORTEDLY HE PLEDGED THE FRG WOULD PROVIDE SEVERAL MILLION MARKS TO COMPLETE AN OLD PORT REBUILDING PROJECT AS AN EARNEST OF THE FRG'S MORE FLEXIBLE POLICY. OTHERWISE HE DID THE CIRCUIT OF SENIOR OFFICIALS THE GOC WHEELS OUT TO PORTRAY THE CHILEAN "REALITY," DONATED SEVERAL THOUSAND DOLLARS TO FLOOD DAMAGED SOUTHERN CHILE, AND GAVE THE PRESS THE BLANDEST RESPONSES OF ANY RECENT VISITOR. THE GOC OFFICIALS, ANTICIPATING ANOTHER LECTURE, WERE PLEASANTLY SURPRISED BY MOERSCH'S SUBTLE APPROACH. THE GERMAN DCM HERE SAID MOERSCH WAS REFLECTING THE FRG'S ASSESSMENT THAT THE PINOCHET GOVERNMENT WOULD BE AROUND FOR A LONG TIME AND THAT A SOFTER APPROACH WAS IN ORDER. END SUMMARY.

2. KARL MOERSCH AND HIS PARTY ARRIVED IN SANTIAGO JULY 4 AND
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LAUNCHED INTO A SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS:

MINISTERS OF INTERIOR, JUSTICE, FINANCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS;
THE PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COURT, AND CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL

COMMISSION. THE CAPSTONE WAS A BILATERAL WITH PRESIDENT PINOCHET.
FOLLOWERS OF THE CHILEAN SCENE WILL RECOGNIZE THESE AS STANDARD
OFFICIALS UPON WHOM THE GOC RELIES TO DEFEND ITS HUMAN RIGHTS
AND ECONOMIC POLICIES.

3. ON ARRIVAL, MOERSCH ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAD NO INTENTION OF LINKING
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE WITH HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS. HE STRESSED
THAT HIS WAS A GOOD WILL VISIT, AND SAID HE WAS PARTICULARLY
INTERESTED IN LARNING MORE ABOUT CHILEAN LOS POSITIONS, CHILE'S
RELATIONS WITH ALL NEARBY COUNTRIES, AND ITS DISASTER RELIEF
PROGRAMS. A FRUSTRATED LOCAL PRESS COULD PRY LITTLE NEWSWORTHY
AND NOTHING CONTROVERSIAL FROM HIS VARIOUS PUBLIC STATEMENTS.

4. WE UNDERSTAND THAT IN HIS MEETINGS WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS
MOERSCH TOUCHED UPON HUMAN RIGHTS VERY CAUTIOUSLY. HE PORTRAYED
THE FRG AS WANTING TO HELP CHILE BUT STYMIED BY STRONG BUNDESTAG
PRESSURES FROM THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS. HE APPARENTLY INTIMATED
THAT EVEN SOME SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC LEADERS HAD MISGIVINGS ABOUT
THEIR PARTY'S POLICIES, AND HE LED THE CHILEANS TO BELIEVE THAT
GERMAN POLICY WOULD EASE FOLLOWING ELECTIONS. MOERSCH REPORTEDLY
TOLD THE CHILEANS, HOWEVER, THAT THE FRG COULD BE MORE HELPFUL
IF THE GOC MADE MEANINGFUL PROGRESS ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS FRONT;
HE NOTED THAT THE FRG HAD FOUND WAYS OF CONTROLLING TERRORISM
WHILE MAINTAINING ACCESS TO THE CIVIL COURTS AND OTHER PERSONAL
GUARANTEES FOR ITS CITIZENS. (COMMENT: GOC OFFICIALS HAVE OCCASIONALL
Y
CITED FRG INTERNAL SECURITY LEGISLATION AS A POSSIBLE MODEL.)

5. DURING MOERSCH'S MEETING WITH INTERIOR MINISTER BENAVIDES,
THE LATTER PRODUCED A LIST OF 26 NAMES, INCLUDING SUCH
WELL-KNOWN FIGURES AS ERIC SCHNAKE, CARLOS LAZO AND JOSE CADEMARTORI
(AND LESSER LIGHTS SUCH AS BELARMINO ELGUETA PINTO, KNOWN TO
WASHINGTON AS THE SON OF YOLANDA PINTO DE ELGUETA OF CODEL
MOFFETT FAME). SOME TIME BEFORE, THE GERMAN EMBASSY HAD SENT
THE GOC THE LIST OF THOSE DETAINEES WHO HAD VISAS. BENAVIDES
SAID SOME OF THOSE PERSONS HAD ALREADY BEEN RELEASED, OR WERE
"OUT OF HIS JURISDICTION." BUT HE WOULD TRY TO BE HELPFUL WITH THE
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OTHERS. OF INTEREST, BENAVIDES PROMISED TO RELEASE INTO EXILE A
PERSON WHO HAD OBTAINED GERMAN NATIONALITY SINCE HIS DETENTION.
JUST BEFORE THE MEETING THE GERMANS HAD HEARD THROUGH OTHER OFFICIAL
CHANNELS THAT THE MAN WAS TOO DANGEROUS TO FREE. EXILING HIM WOULD
INDICATE SPECIAL GOC SENSITIVITY TOWARD DUAL NATIONALS.

6. MORE SIGNIFICANT THAT MOERSCH'S DONATION OF APPROXIMATELY \$8,500
TO FLOOD RELIEF WAS HIS ASSURANCE THAT THE FRG WOULD COMPLETE

A PORT MODERNIZATION PROJECT AT PUERTO MONTT. MOERSCH INSISTED ON KEEPING THE 6-8 MILLION DMARK COMMITMENT QUIET. A LOCAL GERMAN OFFICIAL SAID MOERSCH HAD OBTAINED GERMAN DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY APPROVAL ONLY AT THE LAST MINUTE AND FEARED POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS FROM THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS SHOULD THE PLEDGE BECOME KNOWN AT HOME.

7. THE GERMAN DCM TOLD AN EMBOFF THAT THE FRG HAD DECIDED THE PINOCHET GOVERNMENT WOULD BE AROUND FOR A LONG TIME AND THAT THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO IT WULD BE ANOTHER ALLENDE-STYLE LEFTIST REGIME. ACCORDINGLY, THE FRG BELIEVED THE TIME HAD COME TO BEGIN REGULARIZING ITS RELATIONS IN HOPES THAT BY WORKING WITH MODERATES IT WOULD HAVE MORE INFLUENCE THAN GOVERNMENTS TO WHICH THE GOC NO LONGER PAYS ANY ATTENTION. IN THIS REGARD HE ASSOCIATED FRG POLICY WITH THE USG IN CONTRAST TO THE BRITISH. TO ILLUSTRATE HIS POINT, HE DESCRIBED THE PINOCHET MEETING WHICH BEGAN WITH THE PRESIDENT STONILY RESERVED AND SAW HIM BECOMING MORE AND MORE RELAXED AS THE SESSION DEVELOPED WITHOUT CRITICAL OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE CHILEAN SCENE.

8. COMMENT: WE ASSUME THAT THE CHILEANS WILL CONCLUDE FROM THE MOERSCH VISIT THAT THEY ARE MAKING PROGRESS IN OVERCOMING SOME OF THE WESTERN EUROPEAN OPPOSITION TO THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES. ACCORDINGLY, THE RESULTS OF THE VISIT TEND IF ANYTHING TO DIMISH THE PRESSURES FOR CHANGE.
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